



APPARATUS FOR CHANGING OPERATING MODULES ON A
COORDINATE POSITIONING MACHINE.

5 This invention relates to apparatus for changing
operating modules on a coordinate positioning machine.
Co-ordinate positioning machines include, particularly
but not specifically, co-ordinate measuring machines
(CMM), machine tools and manual co-ordinate measuring
arms.

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Our earlier European patent 0566719 discloses a touch
probe comprising a retaining module (such as a sensing
module) and a task module (such as a stylus module).
The task module is releasably mounted on the retaining
15 module by magnetic means. A magazine comprising a
plurality of storage ports is provided for the housing
of task modules. The storage ports each comprise a
base with a pair of jaws, the jaws having parallel
docking inserts.

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The probe may be mounted on the quill of a machine
which transports the probe to the storage port into
which the task module is inserted. The task module has
a circular lip, the upper edge of which abuts the lower
25 surfaces of the docking inserts and which is held in
place by magnetic attraction.

The task module is separated from the retaining module
by upwards movement of the quill which, as the task
30 module is retained by the storage port, breaks the
contact between them.

Such a magazine and task modules enable engagement of a
task module by a retaining module, and disengagement of
35 the task module from the storage port in a single
continuous movement and without any additional machine